This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 24-66 (canceled)

Claim 67: (currently amended): A portal for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, comprising an authentication resource configured to:

receive a request to log into the private network exchange through a secure gateway;

access, in a directory service associated with the private network exchange, a profile of a user associated with the request;

authenticate the user associated with the request to a plurality of applications associated with the private network exchange;

~~display a menu of the plurality of applications associated with the private network exchange to which the user is authorized to access;~~

receive a selected application of the plurality of applications; and

send data representing an authorization of the user to access the plurality of applications to the selected application,

wherein the portal is not visible to the Internet.

Claim 68 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 67, the portal further comprising a collaboration space configured to allow for document sharing and storage between multiple users of a group.

Claim 69 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 68, wherein the collaboration space is further configured to allow for messaging between the multiple users of the group.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, wherein the profile includes service authorizations representative of services to which the user is authorized to access and groups to which the user belongs.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, further comprising a registration option for the directory service.

Claim 72 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 67, wherein the selected application is an e-mail application configured to permit transmission and receipt of e-mail limited to the private network exchange.

Claim 73 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 67, wherein the selected application is a document repository application configured to permit entry of and access to one or more documents accessible to a plurality of users within the private network exchange.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, wherein the portal is accessible through a web-browser.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, wherein the portal comprises a set of web pages.

Claim 76 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 67, wherein the selected application is a document store and forward application configured to allow the user to upload a document to a temporary repository and to specify destinations for the document to one or more other users profiled within the directory service within the private network exchange.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, wherein the portal is configured to retrieve information from a public Internet site and to display the retrieved information.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, further comprising an option for the user to place an advertisement as a display within the portal.

Claim 79 (currently amended): The portal of claim 67, wherein the authentication resource is further configured to generate the data, wherein the menu is based upon the data.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The portal of claim 79, wherein the data is a user object.

Claim 81 (withdrawn): A portal for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, comprising:

an authentication resource configured to:

receive a request to log into the private network exchange through a secure gateway;

access, in a directory service associated with the private network exchange, a profile of a user associated with the request;

authenticate the user associated with the request;

generate a user object representing of an authorization of the user to access a plurality applications associated with the private network exchange;

display a menu of the plurality of applications associated with the private network exchange to which the user is authorized to access based upon the user object;

receive a selected application of the plurality of applications; and

send the user object to the selected application;

a registration option for the directory service;

the plurality of applications including:

an e-mail application configured to permit transmission and receipt of e-mail limited to the private network exchange;

a document repository application configured to permit entry of and access to one or more documents accessible to a plurality of users within the private network exchange; and

a document store and forward application configured to allow the user to upload a document to a temporary repository and to specify destinations for the document to one or more other users profiled within the directory service within the private network exchange; and

an interface to allow the user to place an advertisement as a display within the portal,

wherein the portal is not visible to the Internet.

Claim 82 (new): In a portal for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, a method for representing an authorization to access a plurality of applications comprising:

receiving a request to log into the private network exchange through a secure gateway;

accessing, in a directory service associated with the private network exchange, a profile of a user associated with the request;

authenticating the user associated with the request to a plurality of applications associated with the private network exchange;

receiving a selected application of the plurality of applications; and

sending data representing an authorization of the user to access the plurality of applications to the selected application,

wherein the portal is not visible to the Internet.

Claim 83 (new): The method of claim 82, wherein the profile includes service authorizations representative of services to which the user is authorized to access and groups to which the user belongs.

Claim 84 (new): The method of claim 82, further comprising registering the user in the directory service.

Claim 85 (new): The method of claim 82, wherein the portal is accessible through a web-browser.

Claim 86 (new): The method of claim 82, wherein the portal comprises a set of web pages.

Claim 87 (new): The method of claim 82, wherein the portal is configured to retrieve information from a public Internet site and to display the retrieved information.

Claim 88 (new): The method of claim 82, further comprising determining whether a request to place an advertisement as a display within the portal has been received.

Claim 89 (new): The method of claim 82, further comprising generating the data.

Claim 90 (new): The method of claim 89, wherein the data is a user object.